

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 4, 5 and 8 have been canceled and new claims 9-14 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 have been previously canceled. Thus, claims 9-14 are pending in this application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed February 27, 2006, claims 1, 4, 5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tseng et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,724,094, hereinafter "Tseng"). It is noted that claims 1-8 have been canceled and claims 9-14 have been added. To the extent the rejections remain applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicant hereby traverses the rejection, as follows.

Claims 9, 11, 13 and 14 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Regarding claims 9, 11, 13 and 14, the Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in the cited prior art discloses or suggests at least the features of the present invention of, a "plurality of [independent] signal output lines" provided in each IC chip and "sequentially selecting from among the plurality of signal output lines" as recited in new claims 9, 11, 13 and 14. One advantage of these features is that the IC chip can be controlled at a higher operating frequency.

By contrast, Tseng discloses dummy photoelectric conversion elements each of which forms a pair with each of the image reading photoelectric conversion elements. The Applicant respectfully notes that FIG. 8 of Tseng shows the circuit of one IC chip, a

plurality of which are needed to form the Contact Image Sensor circuit of Tseng. See e.g., col. 3, lines 60-67. Tseng, however, fails to disclose or suggest a plurality of independent signal output lines provided in a single IC chip for reading an image, and that the plurality of signal output lines are sequentially selected, thereby increasing the operating frequency, as recited in claims 9, 11, 13 and 14 of the present application.

For at least these reasons, the Applicant submits that claims 9, 11, 13 and 14 are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 10 and 12 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Regarding claims 10 and 12, the Applicant respectfully submits that each of these claims depends from one of allowable claims 9 and 11, and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentably distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with

this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 103213-00042.

Respectfully submitted,



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